(c) how does Government propose to implement this scheme of providing cooked food to its destitute population ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU) : (a) to (c) No specific proposal in this regard is presently under consideration.

Projects for development of village roads and National Highways

4072. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister commenced any special projects for the development of village roads and National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the State-wise allotment for these projects; and

(c) whether Government propose to enhance the allotment for Kerala State ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU) : (a) to (c) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been launched on 25th December, 2000 to provide connectivity, by way of an All-weather Road, to all Unconnected Habitations in the rural areas, with a population of 500 persons and above by the end of the Tenth Plan Period (2007). While the State Governments, including Government of Kerala, have been advised that, at this stage, the available funds for the year 2001-2002 may not exceed the last year's allocation, it will be Government's endeavour to provide requisite funds to the States.

The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) connecting four metropolitan cities (the Golden Quadrilateral) and North-South and East-West corridors, involving upgradation of the National Highways to four/six lane standard, has also been commenced. The Golden Quadrilateral component is targeted for completion by December 2003 and North-South and East-West Corridors by December 2007. No State-wise allotment of funds is made as the Project is being executed by the National Highways Authority of India.

Scarcity of drinking water in flood hit areas of Orissa

4073. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe scarcity of drinking water in the flood affected areas in Orissa;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to ensure adequate drinking water supply to those flood hit areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any action plan has been initiated for those areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As reported by the Government of Orissa, steps have been taken to ensure supply of drinking water to the flood hit areas. The State Government has opened Control Rooms at district, circle and State levels to monitor the flood relief works on war footing basis. The arrangement for providing drinking water in poly bags and through tankers to people who took shelter in highways and high lands after their dwellings were submerged has been made by Government of Orissa. Action for disinfecting the contaminated tube-wells, open wells including private tube-wells with bleaching powder and calcium hypochloride has been taken soon after the flood water had receded. For this purpose, Government of Orissa has formed 186 mobile teams with 93 mobile vans and 5 country boats. Halogen tablets were also distributed to the flood affected people for disinfecting the contaminated drinking water. Bacteriological tests were also carried out after disinfecting, to ascertain the efficacy of disinfecting. The unsafe sources were repeatedly disinfected. The tube-wells, which had gone out of order, were repaired and restored on emergency basis. 75298 tube-wells have been disinfected and 7648 tube wells have been repaired so far. 113 piped water supply schemes have been restored to normalcy.

(d) As reported by the State Government, the following action plan has been initiated for supply of safe drinking water in the affected areas :

(i) Supply of materials like bleaching powder, halogen tablets, calcium hypo-chloride solutions etc. have been kept ready to manage the calamity.

(ii) New drinking water sources will be provided as per requirements.

(iii) Sufficient spare parts have been kept ready for timely repair and maintenance.

(iv) Regular tests will be conducted to ensure bacteriological safety of the source.